

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We appreciate that on September 5, 2021 you granted Governor Hochul's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New York, triggering the release of federal funds to help people and communities recover from the remnants of Hurricane Ida that occurred September 1-3, 2021. We understand that various damage assessments are ongoing, and that the counties and State will continue to submit new information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As this process continues, we encourage you to stand ready to expeditiously approve Individual Assistance and other aid to the governments, small businesses, and residents of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties.

State and federal experts have estimated that this storm caused more than \$50 million in damage to public infrastructure and property, while more than 1,200 residences suffered damage. While there was significant damage in Westchester County and New York City, counties in the Hudson Valley have also experienced significant damage because of Hurricane Ida and require federal assistance. For instance, please find enclosed correspondence from the Dutchess County Executive, detailing expenses related to flooding, emergency response, building inspection, and emergency protective measures. These communities, homeowners, and small businesses need robust federal aid in order to recover.

As further damage assessments are completed and New York continues to recover, we urge you stand ready to immediately approve this much-needed aid to Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. We thank you for the prompt attention that your administration has provided thus far, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to address this crisis.

Sincerely,



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

MARCUS J. MOLINARO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 5, 2021

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
United States House of Representatives
464 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Antonio Delgado
United States House of Representatives
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Federal Disaster Declaration

President Biden, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and Representatives Maloney and Delgado:

As you know, the effects of Hurricane Ida are still being realized in the Northeast, with most of the damage from flood water impact occurring after the storm had passed.

Commercial properties containing small independent businesses in central, southern, and southeastern Dutchess County have suffered significant damage from tributaries that became swollen and turbulent flooding businesses with as much as five feet of water in some cases. Some of these small businesses, already impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, lost all their equipment and inventory.

Additionally, the local governments in these areas need federal disaster assistance in order to cover expenses related to emergency response, building inspection, and expenses related to emergency protective measures.

On behalf of the affected communities in Dutchess County, I respectfully request your assistance in working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to expand the Major Disaster Declaration for New York State to include small businesses and to include Dutchess County in its list of affected counties.

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive